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S H O C H I K U

"ANSEI KIBUN TSUKUDA NO YOARASHI

KABUKI PLAY IN 3 ACTS

WRITTEN BY FURUKAWA SHINSUI

TO BE PRESENTED AT TOKYO THEATRE FROM

MAY 5

BY KIKUGORO & KICHISEN TROUPE

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G.C.D. J-2040



8/11/48
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ACT I

The Scene of the Kitchen at Tsukuda Prison

CHARACTERS:

Aoki Sada jiro

Kaniya Genzo

Heigoro, a jailer

Senkichi; Kanekichi; Umeji;)

Genjiro; Matsuzo; Sanji;) prison coolies

Choji; Kuma jiro; Tarokichi;)

Yokoyama Godayu; the magistrate

Uno Yohei, an official

Kawamura Daihachiro)
subordinates

Maeda Sanjiro)

(The stage represents the kitchen of the prison at Tsukuda island. Piles of wood; a well; ovens etc. Senkichk, Kanekichi, Umeji etc., all prison coolies, are boiling rice. The curtain rises with the sound of waves.)

Senkichi: We've washed the rice so well today that they'll be very glad to eat it.

Kanekichi: Sure . At first. I used to get sick whenever I smelt the prison rice. I'm rather used to it now.

Umeji: You re too used to it. You nibble fish bones.

Genji: It's not too nice to come to wait for prison rise.

Taro: When I was in the world, I used to eat as much nice things as I liked, for my master-westler was always invited by great people.

Katsuzo: I'm here for the first time, you know. I was sent to pound barley at first. It was so hard a task.

Sanji: I was ordered to squeeze oil from soy-bean. Pounding barley is much better than that.

Choji: I was lucky enough to be sent to spinning cotton. Straw-work is even better than that, I hear.

Kumaji: Sure it is. Aoki and Kamiya, who are sent to the work, are so lucky. Moreover, they help the sailor of late.

Taro: They must be of ~~kixkar~~ birth higher than ours,
for they've got family names. Any way,
they're so powerful here.

Sen: No doubt. Aski is a samurai (warrior) &
Kaniya, a gokenin (lower vassal of the Shogun)

Kane: But they are to stay here all their lives,
when we're sure of getting out of here in
3 years and 3 months at longest.

Ume: I've never heard of it. How is it?

Gen: I've heard of it. It's much talked of.

Katsu: It is said that they can't get out of here
all their lives, because they've committed other
crimes.

Sanji: They planned a conspiracy, they say.

Cho: It'll be so bad to have to stay here all the life.

Kuma: They don't know their fate, I think.
It's such a pity.

Taro: It's the reward for their deed. This is not a
place to come for good conducts.
(Meantime they put the rice in bowls Heigoro,
the jailer, comes in.)

Heigo: What are you losing your time for?
Be quick, or you'll be punished by the officials.

Gen: Yes, sir.

All: Good-bye, Mr. Jailer.

(They go out, with the bowls of rice.

Kamiy-Genzo comes in.)

Genzo: Ah, it's so hot. Well, have they carried the rice?

Hei: I've scolded and sent them.

Gen: They're so lazy. No doubt, for this is not a place for good people to come.

Hei: Sure. (Scratching his back.) It's so itchy.

Gen: You're lucky you haven't lost your nose.

Hei: You don't say so. I've heard the boss has got a bath ready. I think I shall go and have a bathing.

Gen: Go at once, for it'll be too bad if you get eczema, when I'm/ to live in the same room with you.

Hei: Thanks. Oh, I, haven't put out the fire yet.

Gen: All right. I'll see to it.

Hei: Many thanks.

Gen: Have a good bathing.

(Heigoro goes out.)

Gen: (to himself) It's nearly a year since I came here. Can it be true that Aoki and I are to stay here all our lives?

Hachisaburo (calling behind the stage):

A round of the magistrate.

Gen: The magistrate. Well, I'll put off the fire.

(Goes out.)

(Yokoyama, the magistrate, comes in through the stage passage, followed by his subordinates Hachisaburo and Sanjiro.)

Sanjiro: A round.

(Sadajiro Aoki comes in and squats.)

Yohei: Anything to report?

Sadajiro: The officials are very kind, the meals nicely, and we are all thankful, sir.

(The magistrate and the followers go out.

Soon Genzo comes in.)

Gen: Is the round over?

Sada: Just now. Well, I think I'll take a bath.

(About to go.)

Gen: Now, Aoki, I've got something to tell you.

Sada: What's that?

Gen: Wait a minute. (Brings some wood.

They sit down.)

Sada: What have got to tell me?

Gen: About ourselves.

Sada: Ourselves?

Gen: Well, I've often heard that you and I are to stay here all our lives. I thought it was a baseless rumour, but it seems to have been true.

Sada: I've heard such rumour, too, but I used to take an easy view of it.
Do you know how it is?

Gen: Yes: and that's why I'm discouraged.

Sada: What's that?

Gen: I've heard them say that our conspiracy plan had come to be clear, and that we were to stay here all our lives.

Sada: Oh, has our plan come out?

Gen: It seems so. What shall we do, Aoki?

Sada: Of course it's our own fault, but
it'll be such a shame for us to do coolie works with those sneak thieves and
tramps and then to die here in this prison.

Gen: Moreover, you're to avenge your father's death.
It'll be such a shame if you die here.
(says agitatingly.)

Sada: Sure it is. It is my constant wish to put off my shame by taking revenge. But, I don't know who killed my father.

Gen: You don't know?

Sada: Not a single hold.

Gen: Oh, I'd have told you before if I knew that you didn't know.

Sada: Do you know, then?

Gen: Quite well; but I thought you knew, too.

Sada: And who's that?

Gen: Sanjuro Yamada, a bad sokenin.

Sada: Who told you that?

Gen: Heisuke, footman of my companion Yamanaka. He said he passed Kudan that night and saw the murderer.

Sada: It's true then, for Heisuke is an honest man.

Gen: You must be much mortified.

But, what can you do, when you're here in this prison?

Sada: I'd have found out and killed him, if I were out in the world.

What a remorse.

(The sound of the revel of a bailer is heard.)

Gen: Who's the new failer, I wonder? It'll be such a fun to live in the world; and you'll be able to take revenge, too.

Sada: Well, Kamiya, I'm going to tell you something that I won't tell even to my brothers.

I'll just stop doing it if you don't like, so, promise me never to tell it to others.

Gen: I swear. Well, what's that?

Sada: This is it. (Whispers into Genzo's ear.)

Gen: Why, you mean to ----.

Sada: Hush. (After prying about.)

Will you consent me?

Gen: I will, if you like to do so.

Sada: You agree?

Gen: It won't be hard for us two.

But, what about clothes?

Sada: Be at ease. We've had three new-comers today
and I've kept their clothes.

Gen: It's lucky. But ----

Sada: What's the trouble?

Gen: Well, you swim well, but I can't swim a stroke.

Sada: Don't worry, for I'll help you.

Gen: Oh, thanks. I hope it'll go on well.

Sada: If it goes well, we'll be able to have a good time.

Gen: Drinking.

Sada: And revenging.

Gen: It'll be so good.

(The sound of wooden clappers.)

Sada: Is it time already?

Gen)

Sada): How we wish the time will pass quicker.

(The curtain falls with the sound of waves and
wooden clappers.)

A C T - II :

The scene of the outside of the prison of
Tsukuda island.

The scene at Yamamotocho, Fukagawa.

The scene on the bank of the Nambu-gawa.

The scene at the bar of Mifune-gura.

Characters:

Sadajiro Aoki.

Kinezumi-Seiji.

Heisuke)
) paranquin bearers.
Kanji)

Hanjiro, son of the master. of Joshuya.

Fuji pilgrims..

Narita pilgrims.

Genzo Kamiya.

O-yone, mistress of a restaurant.

§ -----

S C E N E - I :

(The scene outside the Tsukuda prison. Stone-walls and piles on the beach. Night. Sadajiro, clothed in a prison garb, climbs down the wall with a suit of ordinary clothes in his hand. Genzo follows him.

Soon Sadajiro goes into the water with Genzo on his back. The stage changes.)

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S C E N E - II :

(The scene at Yamamoto-cho, Fukagawa, Kanji and Heisuke, palanquin-bearers, sit smoking.)

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Kanji: It's strange that there are only few passers-by tonight.

Heisuke: It's the 13th of September, you know.

Kanji: Samurai and merchants are particular about such things. They say it invites

misfortune to walk about tonight,
unless they did so on 15th of August.

Hei: Maybe, for the gay quarters don't
flourish on April 8, Buddha's
birthday.

Kan: We haven't had much work tonight.
Let's move a little and find someone
to take out palanquin.

Hei: All right. This is such a desert
place.

(The two go out with the palanquin.
Soon Hanjiro, clothed like a young
merchant, comes in. Sadajiro and Genzo
follow him. They have changed their
clothes.)

Hanji: (To himself) I thought there must be
many people on the street as there is
a bailing tonight. It's so lonely
and dark. I wish I had asked to see
me home.

(The two catch hold of Hanjiro.)

Han: What do you mean, please?

Gen: Shut up.

Sada: Shut up, or you'll be killed.

(Hanjiro tries to get away, but in vain. Sadajiro takes a purse out of Hanjiro's pocket.)

Sada: There's more than 7 bu at least.

Gen: So I lucky.

Han: (Clinging to Genzo) I'll get into such a trouble if you take it. Give it back to me, please.

(Genzo flings up his fist. Hanjiro runs off the stage. The stage goes round. as the two examine the purse.

SCENE III.

The scene on the banks of Nambugawa, Fukagawa. It is near the last scene. Kanji and Heisuke, the palanquin-bearers, sit. Kanji peeps into the right, as though he has seen the stealing scene. Sadajiro and Genzo come in from the right and is about to go into the stage-passage, when Kanji calls them.

Kan: Won't you have a palanquin?

Sada: No. We don't go far.

Kan: Take one, please.

Gen: We won't, I say.

Kan: Won't you?

Gen: No. It's our business.

Kan: All right. Give us some drink-money, then.

Sada: How dare you, when we havent rode your chair.

Gen: It's so warm tonight. Some fox must have taken in. Ha-ha-ha.

Kan: You two are valves, worse than foxes. I ask you to give us our share.

Sada)
Gen) What do you mean?

Kan: Don't feign ignorance. I don't know how much there was in the young man's purse, but give us half of it, anyway. I've seen all.

Sada: We're honest men, whatever you may have seen.

Gen: Don't make a mistake.

Kan: How can I, We palanquin-bearers can see through darkness. You've had a good work. Pay us half of it as an offertory.

Hei (anxious): Now, Kanji, it'll lend you into troubles if you get a share of the stolen money.

Sada: How will it, when we haven't stolen?

Kan: Give it at once, I say.

Hei: Don't be so obstinate, Kanji.

Kan: Shat up. I'll take it all over myself if we become entangled in the trouble. You're nicknamed Heisuke the Buddha. It won't do being too good.

(Genzo, hearing the name of Heisuke, gets frightened and glances at Sadajiro, who, however, doesn't take notice.)

Gen: You persist on it, then?

Kan: Of course. I'll just take it by force, if you won't hear me.

Sada (with a stone in his hand): You'll be killed if you won't be wise.

Kan: I'm not to be beaten by you. (Catches at Sadajiro.)

Sada: What are you doing? (Strikes kanji on his head with the stone.)

Kan:. Struck me, robber?

(A fighting scene. Genzo is looking ~~for~~
for a chance to kill Sadajiro.)

Hei (anxious): Now, Kanji, take care not to be hurt.

(Goes between them.)

Hei (approaching Genzo): Please stop them, sir.

Hei (noticing Genzo): Why, you're Genzo Kamiya.

Gen: You're Heisuke.

Sada: Heisuke?

(Genzo kicks Heisuke in the stomach, who
utters a cry of pain and runs off.)

Kan: You've kicked my companion.

(defies Genzo and Sadajiro)

Gen: You want to be kicked, too?

(The three fight. Genzo is killed at last.)

Sada: Such a hard fellow.

Gen: Rather strong.

(They throw the body into the river.)

Sada: We've lost so much time.

Gen: Let's hurry.

Sada: It'll be dangerous for us to walk on the
other bank. Let's just keep to this side.

Gen: Yes. We'd better keep to the Honjo side.

(The two go through the stage-passage, when a
watchman calls in the rain stage:)

Watchman: Mind the fire.

Sada: What's that?

Gen: A fire-watch.

Sada: He's frightened me so much.

(The stage goes round with the sound of wooden clappers, as they goes out of stage.)

SCENE IX.

The scene of a restaurant at Mifune-gura.

It is about dawn. 10 Fuji pilgrims stand with lanterns in their hands. 10 or so of Narita pilgrims come into stage.

N. Pilgrim I: Sorry we're late.

F. Pilgrim I: Not at all. We came just now.

(O-Yone, the mistress of the shop, comes in with a pitcher of water.)

Yone: Good morning, gentlemen. Here's some water.

Pil III: Thanks.

Pil. IV: This is such a good place for us to take a rest.

(The pilgrims drink water.)

Pil V: Have the kabuki and Yoshiwara people gone yet?

Yone: Not yet, sir.

Pil VI: They'll be late, for they sit up late.

Pil. VII: Let's go first.

Pil. VIII: It'll be better.

Yone: See you again.

(The pilgrims go out, reciting nembutsu.)

Yone: They're so evergetic. (Coming to a sitting room of which the door has been shut.)

It has become lighter. Shall I open the door?

(Opens the door. Sadajiro and Genzo sit drinking.)

Sada: It has quite broken out.

Gen: Where did they go?

Yone: They pay a morning visit to the Fudo shrine.

(Puts out the lantern.)

Sada: I see. Well, I think I heard just now that the kabuki and Yoshiwara people would come soon.

Yone: Oh, no, sir. They're late risers. They won't come before eight.

Sada: Oh, are they? Will you bring two more bottles of hot sake?

Yone: Sorry, but we haven't got any more. I'll just go and buy some. There's a nice soba dealer near the wine store. Shall I buy some for you?

Gen: That'll be nice; but have they got soba so early in the morning?

Yone: Of course. All the shops open early during the Fudo festival.

Sada: Buy us some, please. It won't take much time?

Yone: Not much. (Goes out with a bowl and a bottle.)

Sada: I feel rather cold. It's because I've had no sleep at all. It's awkward that we meet so many people.

Gen: But the other bank must be more crowded than this. And are you going to Koshu at once?

Sada: Oh, yes; I'd like to take revenge as soon as possible. We won't see each other for a while. Let's have a little more drink before we part. Well, take care and don't stay in Edo too long.

Gen: I think not. I'll hide myself just for tonight and shall start before dawn tomorrow. You'd, take care, too.

Sada: Yes, thanks. But it's very good-ominous that we should have got the travelling money in less than two hours after our flight.

(They drink on Konezumi-Seiji, who seems to have been eaves-dropping, appears from out of a shed on the left.)

Seiji: It's so strange to see you here, Bosses.

Sada (frightened): Why, Seiji -----.

Gen: Where have you been?

Seiji: Well, I came to work in the gay quarters last night, and as I felt very sleepy, I just slept in this shed.

Sada: Still pick-pocketing?

Seiji: Well, I didn't, the very day I was boiled. But, I couldn't pay the doss-house, so I just began the next day.

Gen: So bold for your age. And have you got anything good?

Sei: Not much; for it's all dull in the world. I thought I was to make progress in the line, learning all about such things in the prison. But, after all, absence of one year from practice makes one rather awkward.

Sada: Sure it does.

(Pours some wine.)

Come and have a cup.

Sei: Thanks. (drinking) so nice. I'm so fond of drinking, I can't stop pick-pocketing.

Gen: Now, Seiji, it may be unnecessary to tell you this, but don't tell anybody that you've met us here.

Sei: Of course not. Boss Sadajiro used to be very kind to me at Tsukuda, and Mr. Kamiya, too. Don't worry, please. Moreover, I'm not to stay in Edo very long.

Sada: Oh, aren't you? Well, we meant to fly to Oshu soon, but we now have decided to remain here for a while. Won't you just find us two suits of clothes that will make us seem to be a couple of respectable merchants? (Gives 2 ryo of money)

Sei: All right. I'll come back very soon. Will you wait here?

Sada: There pass so many people here.
We'll wait in the tea-shop over at Nakagome about noon.

Sei: All right.

Gen: You'd better choose sober ones.

Sei: All right.

Sada: Well, Seiji -----

Sei: See you again.

(Seiji Goes out.)

Gen: We've wasted much money over such a knave.
Child as he is, he is a famous pickpocket named Konezumi. He must have overheard our words.

Sada: That's why I sent him away to Nakagome.

Gen: I thought so and admired your tact.

Sada: We'd better hurry off Edo.

Gen: And where will you go?

Sada: I'll hide myself near Sanju for a time, and then -----.

Gen: Go to Kofu -----

Sada: And take revenge, I hope.

Yone (coming in with sake and soba): Sorry to have kept
you waiting.

Gen: Oh, thanks. I haven't tasted soba for a
long time. (The words slip out of his
lips)

Sada: Now, Genzo-----.

Gen: I mean I didn't eat it for a long time
because I gave it up for some special asking
to gods.

Gone: The maker is so skilful. It's well-made.

Gen: Now, did you hear it?

Sada: Yes, well-made ---- it tells good fortune.

Genzo: Such a good omen. (Pan of words. Wake---utsu--
soba and take---utsu-revenge)

Yone (coming in with a wine bottle): It's well-warmed.

Sada: Well-warmed?

Gen: Good omen again. (Pan of words. Well-warmed
bottle ---- choshi ----- and well-managed-----
choshi)

Yone: Beg your pardon?

Sada: Oh, I said that the soba is well-made.

(The two eat.)

Gen: It was so nice.

Sada: I feel well now.

Gen: We'd better go one by one.

I'll go now, Sadajiro.

Sada: It can't be helped, I guess, though I feel very reluctant to part. And where will you stay tonight?

Gen: Well, I don't know----- I think I'll go to Kosuge where my father's servant lives in retirement, and then go to Oshu.

Sada: Well, then, you go northward.

Gen: And you, south.

Sada: See you again.

Gen: Wish you success. (Goes out)

Sada: Oh, Mistress, our bill, please.

Yone: A minute please.

Sada: Don't forget the soba.

Yone: No, sir.

(O-Yone counts on soroban. Meantime Sadajiro takes up a kitchen knife and puts it into his pocket.)

Yone: 1 bu and 1 shu, please.

Sada: C.K. No change.

Yone: So much? Oh, thank you. (Goes out.)

Sadajiro is about to go, when Heisuke, the palanquin-bearer, comes in with Sanjuro Yamada, a gokenin---- the Shogun's vassal.

They have come in ~~xxxx~~ search of Genzo Kamiya.)

Heisuke (noticing Sadajiro): Oh, you're Master Aoki----

Sada: And you're Heisuke, Yamanaka's footman.

Hei: Mr. Yamada, here is Master Aoki.

Sanjuro: Hallo, Sadajiro.

Sada: You're Sanjuro Yamada----- . I'm fortunate to meet you here. Come on. (Challenges.)

San: What, do you mean by that, Sadanjiro?

Sada: Don't pretend ignorance. It's cowardly of you to try to escape me when you killed my own father. Just surrender yourself.

San: How can I, when I haven't killed your father?

Sada: Cow coward. (Gives a cut.)

San (trying to evade): Now, Heisuke, you know all about it. Tell him all.

Hei: Yes, yes, sir. (Bewildered) Now, Master Aoki, wait a minute, please. You're mistaken. Wait a minute, please.

Sada: (A little awakened from agitation)
You say that he isn't the man who killed my father?

Hei: Listen to me, sir. (Accompanied by samisen orchestra) It was on September 20, three years ago. I was footman to Esq. Yamanaka then.

My master sent me to Mr. Kawahara, who lived at Bancho. On my way home, in the darkness of the Kudan slope, I happened to witness a fighting between a young man and an old one. Soon the younger knocked down the older. And, as the older breathed his last, he whispered "Damned that Kamiya -----"

Sada: Kamiya?

Hei: Yes, sir. I felt it strange and peeped behind a shed ----- and I saw Genzo Kamiya.

Sada: Eh?

Hei: Though I am a palanquin-bearer now, I used to be called Heisuke the Buddha. Believe me, Master Aoki.

Sada: I see now ----- He deceived me saying that Yamada was my enemy. It was only for utilizing me for escaping from the island.

Sanju: And where has he gone?

Sada: He said he'd go to Kosuge.

Sanju: Then he'd cross Mukojima.

Sada: I'd follow him at once.

(The stage goes round with the sound of woodenclappers.)

LAST SCENE

A little away from Horikiri. Shrubs and grasses. Mt. Tsukuba is seen far beyond. Seiji comes in from the right and hides himself behind a tree. Soon Genzo comes into stage, sits on a stock and takes a rest.)

Seiji (appearing): You're Mr. Kamiya, aren't you?

Gen (frightened): Why, you're Seiji.

Sei: Don't you want a suit of clothes?

Gen: Well, something urgent has happened, and I couldn't be waiting for you. Aoki is waiting for you. Go to him at once.

Sei: All right. But I'd ask you to give me a little more tip.

Gen: Tip?

Sei: Oh, yes.

Gen: Well, I am an escape, you know I can't make even one bu. Let me see ----- I stay at Senju tonight. Come to see me tomorrow morning. I'd give you some.

Sei: Where at Senju?

Gen: I know the bar Koigaya across the bridge and I hope they'll lend me some.

Sei: All right. I'll come to you, then.

Gen: Clothe yourself as an honest merchant and tell them that you've come to see me from Edo.

Sei: You needn't worry.

Gen: Well, Seiji --- ---.

Sei: See you again.

(Seiji goes out, accompanied by a samisen orchestra.)

Gen: It's very unlucky I should be found by such a knave. It's very dangerous if he reveals what he knows. I've to change my mind and find another lodging, I'm afraid.

(Genzo stands and, puts on his sedge-hat and is about to return to the stage-passage, when Sadajiro appears with his face hidden, and peeps into Genzo's face.)

Sada: Why, Kamiya-----

Gen: Why, Aoki -----.

Sada: And what for are you returning?

Gen: Well, that is ----- Now, come here.

(The two comes into the main stage and sits down.)

Gen: Well, I was just going back to help you, thinking that you'd have a bad time of it, as your enemy Sanjuro Yamada is an excellent fencer.

Sada: It's very kind of you, but he isn't my enemy.

Gen: Oh, isn't he?

Sada: I've come to know that there's someone else that killed my father.

Gen: And who is the enemy?

Sada: You, Kamiya:

Gen: (frightened) Why. (Changing his mind) You seem to be still ~~xxxx~~ intoxicated.

Sada: Don't pretend ignorance. I've heard all about it from the witness Heisuke.

Gen: From Heisuke?

Sada: You were returning to kill me in order to make your life safe. If you have the intention to kill me, just challenge me and let's fight.

Gen: Whatever you may say, I just say that I know nothing about it.

Sada: Won't you own it, then?

Gen: Of course not.

Sada: I can't let you live on then.

Gen: How impertinent you are.

(As the two fight with each other, two catchpoles come and call:)

Catchpoles: You're wanted.

(Miyoshino-Kamejiro, a detective, come
a shared
through the stage passage ~~xxxxxx~~ by Seiji
and followed by six followers. Seiji points
to the jail-breakers and retires from stage
at once.)

Kamejiro: Catch them, folks.

Followers: You're wanted.

(Sadajiro and Genzo still try to fight with each other but are hindered by the catchpoles. Soon both of them are caught.)

Kame: Don't resist, both of you.

(The two look up.)

Kame: Genzo Kamiya and Sadajiro Aoki, jail-breakers, have been caught.

Sada: Confound it. Am I to return to the island without accomplishing my wish?

Gen: We're to be beheaded together after all. Let's have a counsel in Hell----- we three---- you, your father and I.

Sada: Tell your soul not to be so cowardly then as you're now.

Kame: Be quiet. Take them, folks.

Catchpoles: Stand up!

Sada: How vexacious.

(The curtain falls on the stage with the sound of wooden clappers as the two are dragged along.)